

the **Dagligtale**

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta

November
2009

Augustana makes room for healthy disagreement

Written by Geoff McMaster

Published in the University of Alberta's *Folio*, October 30th, 2009

It's fitting irony that when the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus proclaimed "dissent" as its intellectual theme for the year, not a single person objected.

According to history professor Rani Palo, maybe that's because the timing is right for a

celebration of contrary voices in an age of religious fundamentalism, global corporate dominance and embedded journalists.

"In the U.S., the media is basically cheering for the government," says Palo, co-organizer of Augustana's theme year. "During the Vietnam era, (news anchor Walter) Cronkite and others were leading the way to educate the people and challenge the government. Now the media is in lockstep... they're prostituting themselves."

Palo explained it is crucial to remember that many of the improvements most of us recognize in society and in the world have been spurred on and actualized through individual and collective dissenting voices.

"Women have rights these days, as do African-Americans and gay people, because of dissent," he said. "And it's in every field, across the board in terms of disciplines, and everywhere in history."

So to keep the idea and practice of dissent alive and well, at least on the Augustana campus, Palo and his colleagues have arranged for a full year of presentations, discussions, colloquia and films aimed at provoking thoughtful critiques of institutions and ideologies many of us take for granted. It is hoped the larger community will also participate in the debate.

Topics for the year encompass almost everything imaginable, including religion, Darwin and evolution, the environment, poverty, disease, social injustice, race and the status of women. "We're casting a large net," says Palo. There is even a concert by the comedic group the Arrogant Worms planned for next February.

A faculty colloquium Oct. 26 discussed the rise and fall of the radical/dissenting working class in Western Canada in the

AUGUSTANA THEME 2009-10

DISSENT

early 20th century and provided a look at F.R. Scott and the 1970 imposition of the War Measures Act. Upcoming talks also include sessions on developing an atheistic spirituality, popular culture and America's image abroad, and the clash of tradition and modernity in the piano music of Arnold Schoenberg.

Along with a third-year student Chantelle Olson, Palo himself will deliver a presentation Feb. 22 entitled "Slavery & the British Empire/An Unamiable Trade."

An accompanying film series will highlight classics of counterculture such as *Waking Life*, *Harlan County, USA*, *Kymatica*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Manufacturing Consent*, *Citizen Kane*, *Holy Mountain* and *Milk*.

So far, all this healthy debate is making for a lively buzz at Augustana, says Palo. "We're getting our students really engaged and fired up more than in previous theme years."

Attention Augustana students, staff and faculty

As some of you may know, the University of Alberta has projected a budget deficit of nearly \$60 million for the next year. It is suggested by the provost of the University of Alberta that this deficit will be shared by students, staff and administrative efficiencies equally. That is a staggering \$20 million each! Rumours of hidden fees, tuition increases, budget cuts, market modifiers and layoffs are spreading fast. How is this going to done? How much will tuition go up? Will there be more fees? Is there going to be staff layoffs? All of these questions can and need to be answered.

The Augustana Students' Association invites you to come to an information seminar with our Dean, Dr. Roger Epp, to discuss the effects of the budget crises on Augustana.

Bring your questions to C167 on December 2nd at 6:00pm.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUGUSTANA CAMPUS

augustana living library: A Living Success

The coffee and cookies have been consumed and the library has moved on to the business of the academic term in the wake of the second **augustana living library**. A Living Library is an initiative through which people, (called "Readers") who want to learn about a specific topic meet people (called "Living Books") whose perspectives, because of the experience of prejudice or a very unique life experience, embody that topic. Readers "check out" Living Books for an hour of conversation regarding that Living Book's particular topic. Throughout the last week of September the thirteen Living Books and many check-outs of the **augustana living library** kept the new building hopping. Readers came, individually and with friends, to hear the stories of the Living Book volunteers, entering into dialogue about life experiences, choices and perspectives.

Among this fall's Living Book titles was, "Dude, Where's My [C*ck] *Boy Chicken". This was the story of Jan Buterman, a transgendered individual who experienced gender misidentification at birth. An Augustana alumnus, Jan returned to share his story as a Living Book. Coincidentally, Jan's plea to the Alberta Human Rights Commission regarding his dismissal as a substitute teacher from the Greater St. Alberta Catholic School Division broke in the news during the **augustana living library** event. As a consequence, the importance of human rights conversations and the work of living justly in community were brought to the forefront of that week.

Jan was joined by twelve other Living Books, each of which provided Readers with an opportunity to see beyond their own stereotypes, perceptions or life experiences. Very positive feedback indicates that these conversations were meaningful to Readers and Living Books alike:

"I think it is important to learn about other people's lives and experience. In our communities it's the sharing of experiences that creates compassion, and a trust within communities."

Lindsay Sims (*Reader of "Surviving the City and the Village," Gay Man*)

"...[the experience] connects you to a human soul and human eyes, enabling you to learn through a lived experience of someone else."

Chelsea Halvorson (*Reader of "Dancing Chick-to-Chick," Married Lesbian*)

"I felt that talking about racism made me think more about all other forms of prejudices that may be encountered by other people."

James Kariuki (*Living Book: "More Than A Color," Experienced Racism*)

"I found it empowering to look back on my life and realize that I have met or adapted to many challenging situations."

Donna Schroeder (*Living Book: "I See," Visually Impaired*)

Who's Who in the Zoo

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Nancy Goebel & Bill Harder

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All opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ASA or University Administration policy.

**augustana
living library**
growing with people
growing in community
growing our world



The second **augustana living library** was a success – not only due to numbers but because of the growing effect on the Augustana campus of the **augustana living library** motto: *growing with people, growing in community, growing our world*. The conversations at the heart of this endeavor create a resonance, one that nurtures life and goodness. A possible result: seeing ourselves in "the other" and doing so with compassion and understanding. The mechanism: Living Books and Readers – listening, responding, learning.

Look for the third **augustana living library** in the winter semester and invite your friends to take out a Living Book. Augustana Living Books are available for "check-out" to the Augustana community of students, faculty and staff as well as to the general public.

- Nancy Goebel and Bill Harder

www.library.ualberta.ca/augustana/lnfolit/livinglibrary/

Boost your Brain!

Feeling like midterms, papers and maybe a few too many nights out have not left your brain feeling its best? We know the feeling! Here are a few brain boosting ideas that we have all heard before but, given the past month, a refresher course probably isn't a bad idea.

1. Walnuts! Who would have guessed? In ancient China it was believed that walnuts improved intellect and enhanced memory by stimulating brain function. Recent studies have shown that walnuts improved motor and cognitive function in test subjects.
2. If you're allergic to walnuts, or simply enjoy diversity in your food, stick to healthy food not junk food. Your brain needs protein and vitamins and minerals to function at its peak so feed it the best foods you can.
3. On that note, to get protein, vitamins and minerals you actually have to feed your brain so eat three meals a day (especially breaky in the morning) and healthy snacks throughout the day.
4. Get some sleep! Going to bed early is the best way to ensure you get your 8 hours. When you don't get enough sleep, blood flow to your brain can drop as much as one quarter. That means that your brain is getting 25% less oxygen and nutrients.
5. Drink plenty of water. Early symptoms of dehydration can include mental and physical fatigue, somnolence, decreased attention, head rushes, chills and loss of appetite.
6. When feeling mentally exhausted, taking an active study break can often be more effective than sleeping. Go for a walk outside, hit the gym or dance around your dorm room. Exercise increases blood flow which increases the amount of oxygen and glucose circulating to the brain. There have also been extensive studies which connect walking to an increase in memory skills.

Events and Going On's

No, Daddy: Words of Queer Descent/Dissent – **Wednesday November 25th** at 7pm in TBA.

The Pilgrim's Way: A Journey Towards True Humanness – **Wednesday November 25th** at 7pm in C104.

Hockey vs. NAIT – **Wednesday November 25th** at 7:30pm in the Edgeworth.

Women's Basketball vs. NAIT – **Friday November 27th** at 6pm in the gym.

Men's Basketball vs. NAIT – **Friday November 27th** at 8pm in the gym.

Stille Nacht – **Saturday November 28th** at 8pm, and **Sunday November 29th** at 3pm in the Chapel.

From Stone to Flesh: The European Encounter with the Buddha – **Monday November 30th** at 12:30pm in C104.

Student Academic Conference – **Monday November 30th** at 6pm in the Chapel, G203, F103, F104, C103, H090, G202.

Spirituality and Poetry: Personal Searches of Muslims Past and Present – **Monday November 30th** at 7pm in C014.

Meet Dean Roger Epp – **Wednesday November 2nd** at 6pm in C167.

Cool Hand Luke – **Thursday December 3rd** at 7pm in the Coffeehouse.

Faculty vs. Students Hockey Game – **Friday December 4th** at 3pm in the Quad.

Hockey vs. Portage – **Friday December 4th** at 7:30pm at the Edgeworth.

Prayer and Mental Sanity – **Friday December 4th** at 8:30am at Merchants.

Augustana's Chaplaincy

The chapel is buzzing with activities this year. Feel free to check them out at any point throughout the year. They'd be happy to have you.

Augustana's Best Kept Secret, The Small Prayer Chapel: A cool place for prayer and meditation. People of all faiths and those with no faith background are welcome to make use of this space (back corner of the chapel, entrance inside the chapel).

Chapel: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the chapel at 10:00 AM.

Soup Supper: Tuesdays at 5:00 pm, With setup at 4:45 if you'd like to help out. In the Faith and Life lounge.

Knitwits: A knitting club- beginners welcome! Needles and yarn available if needed. Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the Faith and Life lounge

Drum Circle: Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Coffeehouse. Open to beginners, and drums are provided.

Baking! If you love baking- or would like to learn meet at 9:00 pm in the coffeehouse. To make (and try) Monday's Chapel snack.

A Test Paper Prayer

Submitted by "Sufferin' Student" to the 88-89 Saga Yearbook

Now I lay me down to study
I pray the Lord I won't go nutty
If I should fail to learn this junk
I pray the Lord I will not flunk
But if I do, don't pity me at all
Just lay my bones down in study hall

Tell my teacher I did my best
Then pile my books upon my chest
Now I lay me down to rest
And pray I'll pass tomorrow's test
If I should die before I wake,
That's one less test I'll have to take

Sports

Augustana hosts the Cross Country Running Championships:



It was an exciting month for the Cross Country running teams here at Augustana. On Saturday November 14th we held the Cross Country Running Championships near the ski jump in the Stoney Creek Valley. This was exciting for both the University of Alberta, but especially for our campus. The Athletic department has been buzzing about this for some time, and became really excited as the events came closer to date.

The Augustana Choir started off the day by singing the national anthem. The women's race lead us off, followed by the Men's race an hour later. The women ran 5kms while the men ran a grueling 8kms.

The weekend started off with an Opening Ceremony with our own Sparky Johnson as MC. This dinner was held at our cafeteria, and had speakers such as our Dean, the mayor of Camrose, and the President of the CCAA (Canadian College Athletic Association). Our women did extraordinarily well with Kathryn Stone taking 10th place, and Patricia Leighton taking 20th place. Stone also took 10th place within the ACAC Conference.

Our Men's team also did not disappoint with David Arial placing 10th place both for himself, and for his conference being less than 2 minutes over the first place winner. Devin Woodland placed 20 out of 108, eight seconds behind Arial's time, as a rookie of this team. All seemed pleasantly excited about the results from this years Cross Country Running Championships, including fan's who dressed up for the occasion, and those who were in the vicinity of the large Viking ship brought to the event.

-Alison McDonald

Gerhard Lotz: Head Coach of Augustana's Cross Country Running Team

Interview by Amy Maddex

How has Cross Country Running become such an important sport for Augustana, the Community of Camrose, and even on a national level?

Due to Augustana's history of strong teams we have become one of the top schools in the country. Camrose feels like the right place, and it is a privilege that the nationals will be taking place here, because we have great pathways to run with very challenging terrain.

Tell me a bit about this year's team. Do you have high expectations for them?

This year the team is stronger than past teams but so is the competition. For example Olivia Collin from Quebec will be in Camrose for the Nationals this year who is the Top National Cross Country Runner and Champion. I expect the women to do really well, but the men are our stronger runners. Overall I feel we will do well, but the team will have to run very strongly in order to get to the top three places for the medals. Nationals are very exciting. Camrose will proudly

uphold the Augustana Vikings at Nationals with a replica Viking ship, men in costumes, and a big feast is planned.

As a four time ACAC coach of the year, do you feel that your own experiences have added to the team? What level of commitment do the team members have to have?

Yes, I have been a runner for thirty years but my Assistant coach has added so much to the teams since he started working with me and I have learned so much from Robert Renman.

What can you say about your Assistant Coach, Robert Renman, who has been your Assistant since 2002, has made coach of the year three times, brings out experience to help the team?

Robert Renman is one of the best runners in the province. He runs faster than all of the team members, including me!



Politics

How China is Reshaping the Way That Development Works:

Written by Wynn Coates

At a two-day Africa-China summit in Egypt this month, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced that China will be granting African countries \$10 billion in cheap aid, and will be cancelling or relieving debts owed by others. In 2006, China offered a similarly generous package to African countries, including the construction a number of infrastructural projects like hospitals, anti-malaria centers, schools and roads. Perhaps more importantly, however, China has been investing in Africa. Premier Wen told the summit, "We will help Africa build up financing capacity." In 2008, direct investment hit \$7.8 billion, and total China-Africa trade grew to roughly \$107 billion by that year—a tenfold increase from the start of the decade.

In response to Premier Wen's recent announcement, critics have made it their initiative to discredit China's relationship with Africa by condemning China's unwillingness to challenge the human rights violations that plague the countries that it trades with. It seems that the growing China-Africa relationship is difficult for some Western governments and Non-government Organizations to accept. Although it is true that China's relationship with Africa involves some very unfortunate and deliberate, but none the less necessary, oversights that make this relationship less than perfect, it is also true that Western countries, far from solving Africa's problems through their own aid programs, have in fact prevented growth in Africa for decades. Those critical of China's relationship with Africa cite the fact that China is vehemently pursuing its own interests in Africa and will do so at all costs, leaving the continent more incapacitated than it would have otherwise been. In fact, China's willingness to invest in African countries on the scale that it has been refutes this claim. At the very least, to argue that China—or any other country for that matter—would be pursuing political and economic ties with another country without considering its own interests is not an argument at all; this is an observation of state behavior that realists have been making for decades. Certainly no part of the world understands this better than the global North, where the majority of the anti-China rhetoric is being created and sustained by political pundits, politicians and the 24-hour news cycle. The fact is that there are fundamental differences between the ways that Western countries approach development and trade in Africa, and the ways that China pursues it.

In its engagement with Africa as Premier Wen demonstrated at this year's Africa-China summit, China takes an investment and infrastructural approach. We cannot forget that it was not long ago that China too was on this difficult path of development. China understands concretely that it is the investment of capital that encourages the kind of growth that leads to the development of both financial and physical infrastructure. To varying degrees, colonialism in Africa left the infrastructural and institutional foundation of most countries highly undeveloped with too few people in a position to manage what did exist, and too many to fight over it (no thanks to the "divide and conquer" strategy employed by many colonists). Without the infrastructural foundation that allows the reliable transaction of money, for example, or even a reputable place to invest this money, there can be no growth. Without roads, workers trained to maintain them, and water pipes to run under them, there can be no healthcare system. China's strategy in Africa is to start from the bottom; to build up from the infrastructural to the institutional. The Western strategy (particularly prized by the United States), however, differs significantly. In this case, there is a focus first on the institutional because it is here that morality is thought to be seated. In other words, the West,

to use the term loosely, often promotes institutional development before infrastructural development. This is demonstrated best by the United States' uncompromising insistence that democratic government is what Africa needs most and needs first. Democracy, it is assumed, will solve the human rights problem in Africa. In addition to this, foreign aid, which is also given generously by Western nations, is often "tied" and heavily conditional. The United States, for example, likes to treat aid as if it were a subsidy to its own country by necessitating that some portion of it be spent on goods and services that are produced in America. To compliment this, they almost always condition their assistance based on the human rights record of a country, or alternatively, sanction a country into submission (an activity that, in many cases, punishes the innocent). Most often though, Western aid to Africa is simply used as a tool to shape policy and development within the countries to which it is offered. To be sure, there appears to be little recognition by these donors that things like human rights will not come about overnight, or through the adoption of a quasi-democracy, but rather must be built from the bottom up. This brings us to the second section regarding the often underplayed differences between the diplomatic rapport between Africa and the East, and between the West.

One of the things, above all, that many African leader's and many Africans themselves despise is the indignity with which the West treats them, and rightly so. Treating an entire continent's people as if they did not know what human rights were, as if they themselves would be unable, if given the tools, to create a prosperous country, is wrongheaded. Colonialism did not leave a very good taste in the mouths of many Africans for being told what to do, how to do it and when it should be done. I would argue that most Zimbabweans, for example, want many of the same fundamentals that we do (personal and financial security, affordable food and water, responsive government), yet many Western nations (namely the US and the UK), often ignorant of their subconsciously patronizing responses, treat Zimbabweans as if they need to be spoon-fed if they are to grasp the concept of a proper democracy. The rhetoric that has long defined Western diplomacy towards Africa is undermining the West's ability to be respected and taken seriously by many African nations, whether it manifests itself through indiscriminate economic sanctions or through the lofty offer of overtly self-serving yet paternalistic conditional aid. To be sure, China's diplomatic engagement with its African counterparts differs markedly in its content; China it is not sharply coercive or disrespectful, but often genuine about its need for a partnership that will also fuel its own emerging economy. In fact, this mutual development initiative that China has established with large parts of Africa is often proudly touted by Chinese officials, and the facts so far point toward the existence of mutual benefit. China, for example, has trained thousands of African professionals because it does not question the capacity for Africans to solve their own problems if they are given the tools and the opportunity to do so, particularly when they are free of unnecessary interventions. China understands that unreciprocated charity is a diplomatic display of pity and denies opportunity, and so it insists on mutual cooperation and an egalitarian dialogue. There is no question that China, though not a perfect partner by any means, satisfies both the quantitative and qualitative needs that foster long term growth and mutual respect between itself and Africa, two components that have never been a part of the Western trade-development rubric in Africa.

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Christmas Presence

Written by Carmelle Mohr

Howard Thurman once said, "Don't ask the world what needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who come alive."

Last October while sitting in class, I decided that I was going to spend Christmas on the streets of Vancouver. Growing up in Vancouver has meant the exposure to countless cultures, religions, political viewpoints, activism, and beautiful scenery, but most prevalent, is its a raw distinction between the rich and the poor. It can be seen, for example, by driving down the infamous Hastings Street. Passing through the suburbs of Burnaby, along the shores of Burrard Inlet, Hastings then winds its way through the slums of Vancouver, as it travels farther and farther west. All of a sudden, skyscrapers loom overhead and Hastings Street divides business building from business person, rather than a shopping cart from a homeless person. It is truly a wonder when one sees the hundreds of black Cadillacs quickly passing through the Downtown Eastside every morning and evening. One wonders how such visible poverty can every day—between 7-9am and 4-6 pm—be passed and passed and passed.

Vancouver's Downtown Eastside is the poorest city district in Canada. It is commonly known as the center of poverty, drugs, prostitution, gangs and death. And surrounding this 18 block radius is the "City of Glass"; the postcard-Vancouver most of us know and love. This injustice has always deeply affected me, even as a young kid. Throughout my time working in the Downtown East Side I have come to see its complexity. There are hundreds of organizations, support groups, soup kitchens, and shelters. There are thousands of people that volunteer and stand for this cause. In fact, there may be no other area on all of Canada with such vibrant community centered on compassionate and fervent activism. And yet, poverty continues to increase. Perhaps, spending one day on the streets seems inconsequential however, in my experience, one day can change a life. Perhaps the biggest thing we can do for those that are homeless across Canada is to see them as fellow brothers and sisters, and offer them that respect. Perhaps, if we walk with them for one day, letting them welcome us, in equality and community, we might create an opportunity for hope and change.

So, last October I decided that I just had to do this. Maybe my brother and I and a couple of friends would drive down and spend Christmas with whomever we met, visiting and exchanging stories. So I began telling people about it. I said, "Hey, this is what I am going to do! Can you help me?" And before I knew, people were excited with me. Within two months, a University campus, a high school in Saskatchewan, countless congregations in BC, and friends and family were involved. In only two months, hundreds of people came together and created the day I was hoping for.

We were able to put together 250 giant gift packages and 200 tins of home baking. A team of 23 of us spent Christmas downtown, visiting for many hours. We divided into small groups: some drove through certain areas of downtown looking for blue-tarped-shelters, some stayed stationary at key locations, and some filled duffle bags with presents and baking and walked the alleys. The reason we organized ourselves in this way is because I believe there is a significant difference between distribution and outreach. The intention of Christmas Presence is to spend Christmas with those living on the streets. It is to create a semblance of normalcy to a day that can be the loneliest and renew hope.

A common question I am asked about street ministry is how best to approach someone. All you have to do is look them in the eyes. When you meet eye to eye—it is acknowledgement—it is equality and understanding. So many people who live on the streets are passed and passed and passed every day, no different than objects. And it is not just those sitting by garbage bins whom we ignore, it is the people in our everyday lives too; in hallways at school, at the office, at the grocery store, in the mall. We can feel so alone in this world even when we are standing at a cross walk with 4 other people, or in a classroom of 150. Eye contact is a way of saying, "Hey, right there with ya!" But, we are often so caught up in our own lives, or perhaps in our own loneliness. It is as simple as looking up, but proves difficult because it means that we must make ourselves vulnerable.

There was one girl whom I met, no older than I, who found me to say thank you as we were leaving. Meeting her earlier in the day, I was able to give her a gift. She did not speak to me, however, but merely looked me in the eyes. Perhaps there were no words that she could say to express her feelings or her situation, perhaps for other reasons I cannot guess. And there were no words that I felt worthy of saying to her. But, we needed none. We looked at each other, and there was an understanding between us. We hugged, and she did not let go. I wished that I would not have had to let go of her. She was so cold, but her gratefulness could have warmed a hundred houses.

Those that live on the streets across Canada are not homeless, they are homeless people. They are just like you and me. The might be, or have been, you and me. They have parents, they are sons or daughters, they too have had the ups and downs of adolescence, they have cried, they have laughed, they have a favourite teacher, they could be from Stettler, or Wetaskiwin, or Edmonton.

So, when I walk the streets, I feel so safe. Some might call me naive and say "Oh! She's just 19, what would she know?" Yes, I am 19. But, I do know some things. I know that when you smile at someone, they've got your back. So much of what we are shown is to fear people. But, in the Downtown Eastside, it is not the people to fear, it is the situations they are in, what those situations force people to do, and the lack of understanding we often have for people who do not live the same way we do. Call me crazy, but I don't believe that anyone wants to live in the Downtown Eastside, or wants to be homeless, or wants to wonder from where their next meal will come.

We have each been given strengths, talents, gifts. What I want people to know is that it is not about perfect ideas, or connections, or luck. It is about reaching out in every moment. Yes, in the Downtown Eastside, and in Alberta, in Saskatchewan, in Camrose, in class, at work, at home, while you cross the street, when you call a friend, or when you pass a stranger—we have an opportunity to hope together.

CBC's Vinyl Cafe awards 'Arthur Awards' once a year. These awards are given to 'ordinary people who do extraordinary things.' One woman, who won this past October, had secretly planted 57 tulips in her neighbour's yard as her neighbour's husband had passed away at the age of 57 that year. Another had taken in a young employee that had gotten into trouble with the law, welcoming him into his small apartment to live with his family and have a fresh start. Another drove a couple that was late to the airport 12 hours north. Small acts, big hearts. And is it not the small things in life that make the big changes?

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and do it. Because what the world needs is people who come alive." —Howard Thurman

Find what makes you come alive and do it. If it is mathematics, computing science, music, woodworking, retail, visual art, sports, being a parent, being a friend, teaching, listening, etc. All you need do is step outside and you'll find someone who needs what you have. And thusly, you'll find someone who has what you need.

Is it a matter of working at a soup kitchen every Sunday, and volunteering every Wednesday afternoon? No. Are those things important and admirable? Yes! Absolutely! But, is it what we are *all* called to do? Not necessarily, no.

But in our day to day lives, if we use what we have been given to give back to those around us, then we will live in a better world. Then we can make it a better place.

I feel able to walk with those on the streets; others feel able to walk among those in school halls, some feel called to walk among their family. The paths of life are as diverse as we are.

I try to tell people about the story of Christmas Presence because it is a story of a small idea that through the hands of many came to be a big act. Because it is a story that can help us understand that we *all* have something to give; something amazing, something unique, something needed. Because it is a story that shows us that we are all in this together.

As the Christmas season approaches, I encourage you to remember what you have. Not what you can buy to give. But, rather what it is that makes you come alive. That is what you can give to those around you. Remember what Christmas is really about.

Last Christmas, we ventured out with the intention of giving Christmas presents and Christmas presence, but we ended up receiving far more than we gave.

May you come alive, and have a blessed Christmas.

Entertainment

Lysistrata: A Play Review

Towels. If there was one thing above all else that stuck out in my mind it was the towels. Green ones, pink ones, yellow ones, beige ones, silk ones, red ones and very, very short ones. However, those towels were just the wrapping of some of the finest amateur actors and, uh, props I have ever seen. The campus production of Lysistrata was thought-provoking, funny and unabashedly crude. Director Kevin Sutley and his fine team of actors and crew surpassed my expectations and put on a topnotch production. The play is an adaptation by Germaine Greer and is much more than a fantastical comedy about sex-wars in classical Greece. It makes you laugh, but it also makes you think. From the five minutes of research I did on this play I could honestly say that the production team delivered. I walked out of the theatre deep in thought, questioning what I had just seen and trying to relate the play's message to my own life. In my opinion that is the sign of a job well done. It is easy to memorize lines and cues; it is difficult to get the audience to appreciate the message, to see past the Spartan ambassador's two foot erection.

Speaking of dirty jokes, Lysistrata is full of them. I am not a prude, in fact, I am the farthest thing from it, and even I found myself cringing more than once. If you are easily offended I recommend that you stay away from this show. You know it's going to be an interesting show when the showcase in the lobby is laden with thongs, bras and sex toys.

I would have liked to have seen some of the rehearsals because more than once it looked like somebody was going to lose their composure on stage, and rightly so. I don't know how those girls were able to keep it together when they were taking the oath

and...you know I'm not going to spoil the surprise, but anyone who has seen the play knows exactly what I'm talking about. There was a definite cohesion among the cast, yet there is no question that there were both weak and strong links in the production. There were several lines and actions (no, I'm not going to be specific) that made me cringe, mostly due to overacting. In a play like this exaggeration is bound to happen, with so many excellent one-liners and an uneven distribution among the characters. However, there were a handful of fantastic performances that stole the show, thanks in part to good direction and delivery. Among my favourites were the bodyguards in too-short towels, the under-appreciated female servants and Kelaneki...Kelaneki...Celaniki? All I know is that the best parts of this production made up for the worst, and the rest was more than I expected.

The set was fantastic, and it was used to the best of its abilities. The fluted columns, the faux marble floor and walls, the inappropriate wall decorations...it fit the play perfectly. The lighting was superb, reflecting and setting the mood without being distracting. The costumes were nothing special, mostly just towels and dresses, but the props made up for it and delivered more than was bargained for. Much like most elements in this play the pros outweighed the cons, and the overall design elements were impressive.

All things considered I would recommend this play to anyone interested in expanding their mind, having a laugh, supporting the arts or seeing giant erections. I hope you go for the first three.

by Samuel Whittleton

Budget Cuts

This is not the first time Augustana has suffered through budget cuts. Here are some things noticed by "Sexy Editors" Craig Mackie and Preet Gill in fall 2002.

...and in other budget cuts, North Hall was jointly leased to the U of A department of Physics and department of Architecture to study the structural phenomenology of ancient stucco. In an interview with an unnamable administrative source, "those suckers may have a financially viable school but we have a structurally undestructable office building that will last us forever!!! Ah ha, ha ha ha ha ha (maniacal laughter)."

...and in other budget cuts, a last ditched bid by the Alberta Gaming Association to turn Old Main into "Uncle Dick's Wacky Gambling Emporium and Ultimate Fighting Arena" was defeated by the Board of Regents on the grounds that "it would jeopardize the large financial backing Augustana receives from the Lutheran Church."

...and in other budget cuts, the Augustana freshman circle has miraculously been paved.

...and in other budget cuts, the bells of the Augustana bell tower that once proudly adorned the Faith and Life building have reportedly been sold at auction for prices ranging from \$1.35 to .85 cents a piece. Comments from administration? "Times are tough and, uh, we need the money," "Auctions are fun," "Hey, I bought one for a buck ten!" and, "The financial cost of maintaining the bells was too much. We only cut the things that were expendable."

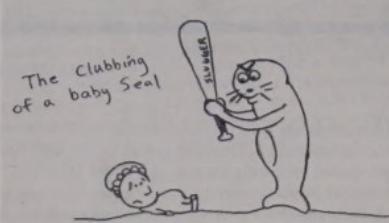
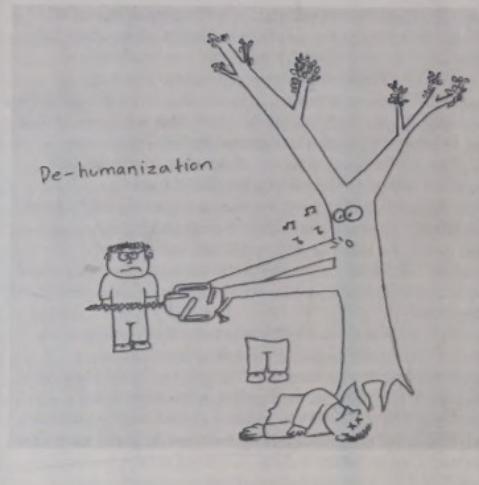
...and in other budget cuts, the gym doors were painted green cause it's cheaper.

...and in other budget cuts, students were reportedly given pamphlets discouraging them from going to class, reasoning that clearly teachers could be paid less if they taught fewer students, right? Aren't profs volunteer positions anyways?

"All it takes is one bad day to reduce the sanest man alive to lunacy. That's how far the world is from where I am. Just one bad day."

Spoken by The Joker, in Alan Moore's Batman comic, "The Killing Joke"

Fun Stuff



Comics taken from the Daglightale Vault, by an unknown artist.

MISSING!



Augustana Resident gnome has been noted as MIA while being sought out for pictures at recent Augustana events. Last seen frolicking in the water feature. Last photographed looking kind of sick at the McDash (can you blame him?).

If you have seen this lovable garden gnome, or know of his whereabouts, please return him to his natural habitat, the water feature.

HORROR-SCOPES

Divined from the stars by Mistress H

- Aries

March 21 - April 20

Your month will be filled with angst, anxiety, and anticipation. Probably not all in the same day, otherwise, you may want to buy some Valium.

- Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Someone will be getting very close to you this month. Don't hesitate to re-enact the restraining order.

- Gemini

May 21 - June 21

To get in the spirit of flu season, you will self diagnose with Piglet Flu. An unfortunate side effect is the strong, sudden desire to relocate to the Hundred Acre Woods.

- Cancer

June 22 - July 22

You will accidentally discover the cure to one of life's greatest problems. Unfortunately, you will lose the paper it's written on.

- Leo

July 23 - August 22

Your month will be filled with weird dreams about lions.

- Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Don't let your friends tell you who to be; let your parents tell you instead!

- Libra

September 23 - October 22

You will feel very unbalanced this month. You should take the time to measure your legs and make sure they're the same length.

- Scorpio

October 23 - November 22

You may have three midterms, two term papers, and a presentation this week. Look on the bright side, at least your fire alarm won't go off every night!

- Sagittarius

November 23 - December 22

The money you spend on laundry will be the money that would have won you the lotto. Oh well, it's only \$50 million, right?

- Capricorn

December 23 - January 19

You will decide to grow a moustache for Movember (Moustache November, AKA No-Shave November), but beware of open flame. If you are female, you may have difficulty with this.

- Aquarius

January 20 - February 19

Beware of vampires standing next to new moons. If you hear sparkling, RUN!

- Pisces

February 20 - March 20

<insert horoscope here> (Always remember to proofread everything before you hand it in).